

CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety Committee

Monday, April 6, 2009 Agenda 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members: D. Sterner, Chair; S. Marmarou; M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Federal House Bill to support National Healthcare

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

I. Ordinance Review

5:15 p.m.

Ordinance – amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Section 10-1212.03.2 adding necessary language to establish a non-refundable application fee for all businesses that sell food in the City of Reading (Law) *Introduced at the March 9 regular meeting; Tabled at the March 23 regular meeting*

Ordinance - amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances – Chapter 4 – Part 1 Historical Districts – Section 102 by adding the definition of satellite dish, antenna and other modern device and Chapter 4 – Part 1 Historic Districts by establishing guidelines for the installation of satellite dishes and other modern accessories, devices or fixtures of comparable size in historic districts (**Waltman**) *Introduced at the March 23 regular meeting*

Ordinance - amending Chapter 11 Housing of the City of Reading Codified Ordinances by amending the term "Housing Permit" to "Rental Registration" (Law) *Introduced at the March 23 regular meeting*

II. Updates 6:00 pm

- a. Introduction of Vacant Property Registration Ordinance
- b. Introduction of Codes Quality of Life Violation Ticketing Ordinance

III. Review Reports:

- Codes Enforcement
- Crime Stats (Police)
- Fire Report

It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above-stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.

Public Safety Goals

Goal 1: Coordination of Police, Codes and Zoning Services

Goal 2: Support Problem Oriented Policing

Goal 3: Surveillance Camera Project - underway

Goal 4: Support Consolidation of Fire Departments

Goal 5: Support Update of Emergency & Pandemic Plan (including NIMS Training for all required personnel)

Goal 6: Support Health and Safety Review Ordinances

Goal 7: Support Cops and Codes Sweeps

Goal 8: Support Implementation of Sidewalk Café and Sales Ordinances

Goal 9: Support Implementation of Sidewalk Vendor Ordinance

Goal 10: Support Public Safety at City Schools



CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety Committee

Monday, March 2, 2009 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: D. Sterner, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, S. Marmarou

Other City Staff Attending: T. Butler, S. Katzenmoyer, J. Hassel, J. Giardiello, C. Heminitz, W. Heim

Dennis Sterner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

I. Handicapped Parking

Ms. Butler stated that this resolution states that a PA handicapped license or placard is needed before an application can be considered. It also requires a severe disability and the applicant's physician to complete a portion of the application. She stated that the application is based on Allentown's application. She stated that Ms. Katzenmoyer adapted it to Reading.

Dr. Hassel reported that medicine has many grey areas. He stated that asking the physicians to be specific may be difficult as they try to please their patients. He stated his belief that the privilege is abused but that he tries to approve only those applicants who are truly in need. He stated the ease in obtaining a State handicapped license or placard causes people to think they qualify for their own parking space. He stated the criteria set by Allentown are reasonable and he would be willing to use these guidelines. He stated he reviews each application. He stated his belief that rental units and multiple cars per family have exacerbated the City's parking problems.

Mr. Sterner stated his belief that an unlimited number of spaces is bothersome and further stated his belief that the number of applications will severely increase after this resolution is passed. Ms. Butler stated that she has contacted Harrisburg and Allentown. They did not report an increase in applications after removing their limit on the number of spaces.

Mr. Sterner stated his position that he would approve of this resolution if a consistent process is followed. Dr. Hassel stated that the application limits those who qualify. He also stated that the applicant is not guaranteed this space but that anyone with a PA handicapped license or placard can use it. He suggested that this be implemented then reviewed after it has been in place for one year.

Mr. Giardiello stated that many applications he receives to do not reach Dr. Hassel as they do not qualify.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated her belief that this is a good solution. She stated the need to educate the citizens and have further discussions on parking in general.

Mr. Marmarou stated that he was told that if he applied for a handicapped license or placard he would receive it as he is a disabled veteran. Dr. Hassel stated that that would be correct for the State but that locally he would need to show why he is hindered and needs a handicapped parking space. He stated his practice of reporting some applicants to the State Department of Transportation because, in his opinion, they should not be driving and licenses have been revoked.

Mr. Sterner questioned if Dr. Hassel had any other suggestions to add to the application. Dr. Hassel stated this is very well written and had no further suggestions.

Ms. Butler stated her belief that this resolution is a good compromise.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the application must state clearly that there is no ownership of the parking space.

Ms. Butler questioned the renewal process. Mr. Giardiello stated that he would continue monitoring the renewals. He stated that he and Dr. Hassel currently work together on renewals and that process would remain the same.

Mr. Sterner requested this resolution be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting before being placed on the regular agenda for formal action.

II. Public Safety at Schools

Officers at RHS Update

Chief Heim stated that the District has agreed to pay 100% of the cost for two officers to be inside Reading High School. He stated that these placements will be made as soon as possible.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned who would define these officer's responsibilities. Chief Heim stated that he would. He stated that a job description has been drafted and that the officers will be performing preventative patrols inside the building.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the perception the well behaved students have of the police presence. Mr. Sterner stated that the principal should address this issue.

Mr. Marmarou stated he witnessed several incidents when RHS security staff needed to address issues. He stated that he was impressed with their actions.

Chief Heim stated that after this school year a long-term contract for in school officers would need to be signed. He stated that the District will need to decide what they want and their degree of willingness to share costs.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the relocation of these officers would require the hiring of additional officers. Chief Heim noted that it would. He stated that he will not pull officers off the streets to staff the schools and not replace them.

Use of School Resource Officers at Middle Schools

Chief Heim stated that currently one officer rotates to all four middle schools. He stated that the issues are the same as at the high school but that there are fewer students in each school.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if the resource officer works with the peer mediation program. Chief Heim stated that he does not at this time but has in the past.

Daytime Curfew Enforcement Report

Chief Heim stated that the enforcement centers around the high school. He stated that youths who do not belong in the area are there all day long. He stated that special details are run occasionally.

Mr. Sterner questioned if the amended ordinance was helpful. Chief Heim stated that it definitely was and that hundreds of citations have been issued.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the next step after the citation. Chief Heim stated that it goes into the Magisterial District Justice system for fines and court costs.

Mr. Sterner questioned if parents are also responsible and held accountable. Chief Heim stated that parents are cited for repeat offenders.

Public Safety Juniors Program at Southern Middle School

Chief Heim stated that this is a good program. He stated that there are approximately 30 students who participate regularly. He stated that police and fire are involved along with Joe Ayala, who conducts calisthenics with the youths.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the department was involved in Camp Cadet. Chief Heim stated that several officers are at the camp for an entire week.

Mr. Sterner questioned if the Administration at Southern was supportive. Chief Heim stated that they are very involved and very helpful.

Mr. Sterner questioned if this program would be planned for the other middle schools. Chief Heim stated that this is a pilot program and is disappointed at the low number of youths involved.

III. Graffiti

Ms. Heminitz reviewed a report showing the work of the Graffiti Task Force and the progress made in removing graffiti.

Mr. Sterner questioned when there would be an increase in removal. Ms. Heminitz stated that removal would begin when the weather becomes warm enough.

Mr. Waltman stated his belief that the youth need to become involved in this issue. He stated that the City cannot clean its way or police its way out of this issue. He stated that the youth need to be empowered with involvement.

Mr. Waltman stated his belief that much graffiti is gang related. He stated the need to break down the barriers between people and encourage interaction. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this is a focus of the Gang Task Force.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that when murals are painted in areas, that area sees a decrease in graffiti. She stated that increasing the murals would decrease graffiti as the youths involved in the mural project feel ownership.

Mr. Sterner questioned who was leading this effort. Ms. Heminitz stated that the Task Force is addressing these issues.

Ms. Heminitz stated that the graffiti logs will now be posted on the City's website.

IV. Dominican Parade

Mr. Sterner questioned who requested the parade permit. Chief Heim stated that it was a community group.

Mr. Sterner questioned if they were paying for the security presence. Chief Heim stated that there were ten City police officers on overtime duty. These officers will be paid by the community group. He is unsure if they will be paying for the State police or Sheriff's office presence.

Mr. Marmarou noted the willingness of the sheriffs to assist the City, increasing their visibility to the community.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if the same amount of security would have been provided if the problems of last year had not occurred. Chief Heim stated that it would have as he had reports that other groups would be attending with the intent of interfering. He stated that approximately 50 people attended and were taunting the group during the event.

Mr. Sterner questioned if the school district was involved in the event. Chief Heim stated that it was not involved. He stated that students participated only with parental permission.

Mr. Sterner questioned how long N. 13th Street was closed. Chief Heim stated that it remained closed under after the high school dismissal.

Mr. Sterner noted the problems caused to traffic flow. Ms. Katzenmoyer questioned parents having access to 13th & Green elementary school to get their children home. Chief Heim stated that parents were granted access to the school.

The Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Shelly Katzenmoyer, Deputy City Clerk

BILL NO._____-2009 AN ORDINANCE

AMENDING THE CITY OF READING CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 10-1212.03.2 ADDING NECESSARY LANGUAGE TO ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION FEE FOR ALL FOOD VENDORS IN THE CITY OF READING

SECTION 1. Amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Section 10-1212.03.3 as follows:

§10-1212.03.2. Application.

Prior to commencement of operation of a facility governed by this Part, the business owner thereof must apply for a Health License with the Health Officer in the City of Reading Codes Enforcement Division. Such application will be a completed form prepared and provided by the Health Officer or his/her designee, submitted thereto and accompanied by the applicable fee, §10-1212.06. application fee and fees established by §10-1212.03.3., Fees, as listed below.

(Ord. 30-2007, 5/14/2007, §1)

§10-1212.03.3. Fees.

There is hereby established a schedule of fees to be paid before a Health License is issued to any food selling establishment or mobile vendor operating in the City.

SMALL RESTAURANT 80 Per year

LARGE RESTAURANT 120 Per year

ITINERANT RESTAURANT 15 Per year

ANCILLARY RESTAURANT 15 Per year

SMALL GROCERY 100 Per year

LARGE GROCERY 125 Per year

SUPERMARKET 200 Per year

ONE ITEM WHOLESALE 100 Per year

MULTI-ITEM WHOLESALE 175 Per year

SMALL PROCESSING 80 Per year

LARGE PROCESSING 175 Per year

VENDING MACHINE (enclosed) 12 Per unit

VENDING MACHINE (public right	of way) 20 Per unit	
MOBILE VENDING UNIT 100 Per u	ınit	
CATERING/COMMISSARY 45 Per	year	
BAKERY 50 Per Year		
DELICATESSEN 80 Per Year		
(Ord. 30-2007, 5/14/2007, §1)		
SECTION 3 . All other parts of the	ne Ordinance remain unchanged.	
SECTION 4. This Ordinance sha	ıll be effective ten (10) days after passaş	ge.
	Enacted	2009 ر
	President of Council	
Attest:		
City Clerk	_	
(Council Office)		
Culturalities of the Maryani		
Submitted to Mayor: Date:	-	
Received by the Mayor's Office: _		
Date:		
Approved by Mayor:	_	
Date:	_	
Vetoed by Mayor:		
Date:		

BILL NO 2009

AN ORDINANCE

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING ENACTS THIS ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF READING CODIFIED ORDINANCES – CHAPTER 4 – PART 1 HISTORICAL DISTRICTS – SECTION 102 BY ADDING THE DEFINITION OF SATELITE DISH, ANTENA AND OTHER MODERN DEVICE AND CHAPTER 4 – PART 1 HISTORIC DISTRICTS BY ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SATELLITE DISHES AND OTHER MODERN ACCESSORIES, DEVICES OR FIXTURES OF COMPARABLE SIZE IN HISTORIC DISTRICTS.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Adding new language in the City's Codified Ordinances Chapter 4, Part 1 Historical Districts Section 102 defining satellite dish, antenna, and other modern device as follows:

Satellite dish- A "dish" antenna that is one meter (39.37") or less in diameter and is designed to receive direct broadcast satellite service, including direct-to-home satellite service.

Antenna- An antenna that is one meter (39.97") or less in diameter or diagonal measurement and is designed to receive video programming service via MMDS (wireless cable). Such antennas may be mounted on masts to reach the height needed to establish line-of-sight contact with the transmitter.

Other Modern Device- Any other device communication or other utilized to assist in viewer's ability to receive video programming signals from direct broadcast satellites, multichannel multipoint distribution (MMDS), and television broadcast stations (TVBS)

SECTION 2. Establishing the following guidelines for the placement of satellite dishes in historic districts:

Installation-No satellite dishes, antenna, or other similar modern device shall be installed or placed in front yards, front of buildings or along their facades within historic districts. All satellite dishes, antenna, or other similar modern devices shall be located to the rear of the main dwelling unit. Antenna and satellite dishes may be installed in the rear or on the roof of the main dwelling unit. A roof mounted satellite dish or antenna shall not be visible from the public right of way.

Exceptions- Satellite dishes may be installed in front of buildings in the historic district only if no other means of reception can be provided. In such cases, the owner or

tenant of the property shall seek the issuance of a certificate of appropriateness as required in section 107 of the Historical District Ordinance. Such satellite dishes shall be installed to be unobtrusive and shall be screened from view through the use of landscaping, fencing and/or architectural building features. The Building Inspector and Historic Preservation Specialist shall approve the installation to ensure there is no disruption to the historic nature and aesthetic value of the district.

Removal-Any satellite dishes installed in the front of buildings before the enactment of this ordinance shall be removed to meet the requirements of the ordinance if and when the device requires replacement or when the owner or tenant who installed the device no longer inhabits the property.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall become effective within ten (10) days of the date of passage and approval by the Mayor or override of the Mayor's veto.

	Enacted	, 2009
	President of Council	
Attest:		
City Clerk		
Submitted to Mayor: Date:		
Received by the Mayor's Office: _ Date:		
Approved by Mayor: Date:		
Vetoed by Mayor:		

BILL NO.____-2009

AN ORDINANCE

AMENDING CHAPTER 11 HOUSING OF THE CITY OF READING CODIFIED ORDINANCES

THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Chapter 11 entitled Housing is amended as follows:

SECTION 11-102 DEFINTIONS is hereby amended to added or amend the following terms and definition:

LEASE - See Rent

LET - See Rent

PERMIT - registration of a property as a rental unit

RENT – compensation for providing a shelter or lodging for occupation or habitation by humans to reside, monetary or non-monetary

RENTAL UNIT – a rooming unit or dwelling unit let for rent, a nonowner occupied rooming or dwelling unit, or a dwelling unit occupied by an owner and additional unrelated individuals. A rental unit shall not include a hotel unit. A rental unit includes dwelling units under lease- purchase agreements or long-term (greater than six (6) months) agreements of sale.

SECTION 11-104 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT is hereby amended as follows:

§11-104 APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A PERMIT RENTAL

be

Application for and registration of a rental permit property for a dwelling unit or a rooming unit shall be made in writing on forms prepared and provided by the City of Reading Codes Enforcement Division Property Maintenance Division and shall be accompanied by payment of the applicable permit registration fee. Such forms shall require, but not shall not be limited to, the following information and shall signed and sworn to by the owner of such dwelling unit or rooming unit:

11-104(8) requiring production of a copy of a Business Privilege License under which the owner rents the dwelling unit or rooming unit and reporting gross receipts therefrom is hereby deleted from the requirements for an application for a Housing Permit Rental Registration. Said removal shall not preclude the City of Reading Department of

Finance Tax Division from investigating, requiring and prosecuting an owner, where necessary, to obtain a Business Privilege License pursuant the City of Reading Codified Ordinances upon receipt of information Property Maintenance Division of the City of Reading of a rental

from the of a property.

11-104(9) and(10) requiring	g proof of valid contract w	'ith a state licensed	<u> </u>
trash hauler or participation on th	ne City of Reading trash co	ollection	
program and recycling program a	are hereby deleted from th	ie requirements	of
an application for a Housing Permit Ren	<u>tal Registration</u> . Said remo)val	shall not
preclude the City of Reading Departmen	nt of Public Works Solid	<u>—</u> Wa	iste Division
from investigating, requiring and prosec	cuting where	necessary a prop	erty owner
for failure to have a valid trash hauler as	nd parti	cipation in the City	r of Reading
recycling program pursuant to the	- City of Rea	ding Codified Ordi	nances upon
receipt of information from the	Property Maintenance D	ivision of the City o	of Reading of
a rental of a property.			

11-104(13) requiring production of a proof of insurance from an insurer licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the property is hereby deleted from the requirements for an application for a Housing Permit Rental Registration. Said removal shall not preclude the City of Reading Department of Community Development Building and Trades Division or Department of Fire and Rescue Fire Prevention Division from requesting insurance information for the property upon necessity therefor.

SECTION 11-105 RENEWAL OF RENTAL PERMIT is hereby amended as follows:

§11-105 RENEWAL OF RENTAL PERMIT RENTAL REGISTRATION

It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the dwelling unit or rooming unit to request and submit an application for renewal of a Rental Permit Registration. Rental Registrations for 2008 and 2009 will be jointly issued and processed by the City of Reading Property Maintenance Division. The owner of every dwelling unit or rooming unit must renew his/her/their Rental-Permit Registration for each such dwelling unit or rooming unit for 2008 and 2009 by September 1, 2009. An application for renewal of a rental permit registration for 2008 and 2009 with the requisite fees may be submitted between July 1, 2009 and August 31, 2009. All renewal applications for 2008 and 2009 received after the first of September, 2009 shall be subject to revocation of the rental permit and/or doubling of the fee set forth herein. In addition, failure to pay/renew a rental permit registration by December 1, 2009 will result in submission of the bill and account for a rental permit registration to collections for recovery. The owner of every dwelling unit or rooming unit must renew his/her/their/its Rental Registration for each such dwelling unit or rooming unit for 2010 by April 1, 2010. An application for renewal of a rental registration for 2010 with the requisite fees may be submitted between February 1, 2010 and March 31, 2010. All renewal applications for 2010 received after the first of April, 2010 shall be

SECTION 11-109 INSPECTON is hereby amended as follows:

A. INITIAL APPLICATION

Except as provided herein, all properties for which a Rental Registration is submitted from 2007 through 2014 shall not be required to undergo an inspection to be registered as a rental property. Properties which have historically, within the last five (5) years, been owner-occupied and not registered rental properties shall be required to undergo an inspection as part of the initial application to register as a rental property. This provision shall not include registered rental properties from continuing to undergo an inspection pursuant to the City of Reading Rental Inspection Program including but not limited to renewal inspections, routine inspections and complaint

inspections nor a Health and Safety Inspection Codified Ordinances upon transfer of a pursuant to the City of Reading property.

If an initial application inspection is required pursuant to the provisions of this Part and the City of Reading Rental Property Inspection Program, then all other portions of §11-109(A) shall remain in full force and effect.

B. RENEWAL INSPECTIONS

An inspection of a dwelling unit or rooming unit shall be performed on a rotating basis commencing in 2009 not less than three (3) years nor more than five (5) years, per the City of Reading Rental Property Inspection Program.

If a renewal inspection is required pursuant to the provisions of this Part and the City of Reading Rental Property Inspection Program, then all other portions of §11-109(B) shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11-119 OFFICIAL NOTICES is hereby amended as follows:

All official notices, <u>excluding notice of inspection</u>, including but not limited to Notices of Violations relating to a dwelling unit or rooming unit shall be served on the owner with a copy to local responsible agent. All official notices, <u>excluding notice of inspection which shall be in the manner set forth</u> <u>herein</u>, shall be by first class mail to address of record of the owner and local responsible agent and posting of the dwelling unit or rooming unit.

SECTION 11-123 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES is hereby amended as follows:

E. PLACARDING AND CONDEMNING

The City of Reading Property Maintenance Division is hereby authorized to placard and condemn thereby requiring the immediate vacation, or within the discretion of the Property Maintenance Inspector a reasonable amount of time vacation, of a property that is being rented for which a registration therefor has not been filed with the Property Maintenance Division as required by this Ordinance.

PART E. NONEXCLUSIVE REMEDIES IS RENUMBER TO PART F.

SECTION 2: All references to Housing Permit, Housing Rental Permit or Rental Permit shall be amended and changed to Rental Registration or Rental Housing Registration.

SECTION 3: All references to Codes Enforcement Division shall be amended and altered to be Property Maintenance Division.

SECTION 4: All references to Manager of Code or Codes Enforcement Division shall be amended and altered to read Administrator of the Property Maintenance Division.

SECTION 5: All relevant ordinances, regulations, remaining sections of Chapter 11 Housing – Rental Ordinance and policies of the City of Reading, Pennsylvania not amended hereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6: If any section, subsection, sentence or clause of this ordinance is held, for any reason, to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Ordinance.

SECTION 7: This Ordinance shall become effective in ten (10) days, in accordance with Charter Section 219.

	Enacted	, 2009
Attest:	Council President	
City Clerk		
(LAW)		
Submitted to Mayor: Date:		
Received by the Mayor's Office: Date:		
Approved by Mayor: Date:		
Vetoed by Mayor: Date:		